



South Hunterdon Regional School District

Creating a Strategic Plan South Hunterdon School District

Mission Statement

Meeting # 1

What Are the Strengths, Achievements, and Challenges of the School District?

On March 1, 2016 the South Hunterdon Regional School District Administration, Board of Education Members, staff, parents and community members came together to initiate strategic planning. The evening topic was focused on the strengths, achievements, and challenges of the South Hunterdon Regional School District. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction by Board President, Mr. Dan Seiter. Field Services Representative Gwen Thornton discussed an introduction to strategic planning. Dr. Louis Muenker, Superintendent presented the current "State of the Schools." Participants then gathered in randomly assigned groups to identify the strengths and challenges of the South Hunterdon Regional School District.

Small groups of participants brainstormed and shared ideas together. After discussion, each group identified their consensus points and presented those to all meeting participants.

The information that follows is a summary of the work of the small groups. As discussed with the meeting participants, all consensus points are recorded and posted on the web to share the group work during the course of the strategic planning process.

Group Consensus

Strengths, Accomplishments, Points of Pride and Challenges

Yellow Team:

Strengths-

- Quality staff
- Small class sizes
- Small district
- Student involvement
- Community support
- In forefront of STEM education
- Effectively utilizes community resources
- Facilitates learning outside the classroom
- Provides cross-grade interactions

Challenges-

- Communications and Website
- Deteriorating buildings
- Need for expanded guidance program
- Lack of academic and extra-curricular offerings
- Expanding special education needs and costs
- Lack of school spirit
- Inability to expand elementary school buildings
- Expanding ELL needs
- Uncertainty of future funding for School Choice Aid
- Student recognition

Red Team

Strengths-

- Highly educated faculty
- Community- historic, rural, walkable
- Small class sizes
- Choice program/Diversity
- Use of resources/related arts sharing
- Dedicated staff and parental support and supportive BOE
- Character education-happy students with positive relationships
- Technology

Challenges-

- Loss of choice aid
- Safety/Security
- Elementary curriculum, STEM, reading
- Small size
- Need to cut costs
- Facility upgrades
- Adequate revenue to support programs
- Transparency/Communication
- Complete regionalization
- Administrative and staff turnover
- Addressing Limited state funding
- Flow of space to maximize learning
- High cost of technology; ever changing platform
- Bilingual education

Green Team:

Strengths-

- Size
- Close knit community
- Arts, music, sports; co-curricular participation
- Variety in course offerings
- Communication; list serve and parent portal
- Teachers and staff
- Deep history
- Technology
- Inclusive classrooms

Challenges-

- Size
- Resistance to change-“this is how we always have done things”
- Equalization and distribution of resources
- Food service consistency
- Consistency between schools
- Communication
- Technology
- Financial limitations
- Facilities limitations
- Mandates/testing

Blue Team:

Strengths-

- Small class sizes

South Hunterdon Regional School District Strategic Planning Meeting #1 Outcomes

- Cooperation among schools; unified curriculum and model for regionalizing
- No/few cuts for teams and activities= more opportunities for trying new things and becoming well rounded
- World language in elementary schools
- Culture of kindness- few behavioral issues
- Connections- school is close knit community
- Student access to technology
- FFA/field trips-enrichment
- LAEF
- K-6/7-12 students as mentors

Challenges-

- Declining enrollment
- Electronic communications (Real Time, website)
- Can't offer as wide a range of sports/activities/ AP classes as big schools
- Lack of Pre-K
- Lack of summer enrichment programs
- Full time principals needed
- Number of classes make it difficult to balance class(es) composition
- Blocking internet from students/teachers
- Parking
- Available snacks

The second strategic planning session is scheduled for:

Thursday, March 16, 2016, at 7:00 pm at the High School

Meetings are scheduled for 1.5 hours and end promptly.

During the next meeting we will create a shared vision together for the future of South Hunterdon Regional School District ... we will talk about our aspirations and expectations for our students and school district.

Please join us!

We look forward to seeing you!